

Presidency; but most of all the last. Re-eligibility makes him an officer for life, and the disasters inseparable from an elective monarchy, render it preferable, if we cannot tread back that step, that we should go forward and take refuge in an hereditary one. \* \* \* The natural progress of things is for liberty to yield and government to gain ground. (To Edward Carrington, written in Paris, 1788. F. V., 20.)

ROTATION.—When I returned from France, after an absence of six or seven years, I was astonished at the change which I found had taken place in the United States in that time. No more like the same people; their notions, their habits and manners, the course of their commerce, so totally changed, that I, who stood in those of 1784, found myself not at all qualified to speak their sentiments, or forward their views in 1790. Very soon, therefore, after entering on the office of Secretary of State, I recommended to General Washington to establish as a rule of practice, that no person should be continued for foreign mission beyond an absence of six, seven or eight years. (To William Short, 1801. F. VIII., 95.)

ROTATION.—That there are in our country a great number of characters entirely equal to the management of its affairs, cannot be doubted. Many of them, indeed, have not had opportunities of making themselves known to their fellow-citizens; but many have had, and the only difficulty will be to choose among them. These changes are necessary, too, for the security of Republican government. If some period be not fixed, either by the Constitution or by practice, to the services of the First Magistrate, his office, though nominally elective, will, in fact, be for life; and that will soon degenerate into an inheritance. (To Mr. Weaver, 1807. C. V., 89.)

ROTATION.—I am sensible of the kindness of your rebuke on my determination to retire from office at a time when our country is laboring under difficulties truly great. But if the principle of rotation be a sound one, as I conscientiously believe it to be with respect to this office, no pretext should ever be permitted to dispense with it, because there never will be a time when real difficulties do not exist, and furnish a plausible